

September 24, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Request Review of Funding Commitment Adjustments for HCP 13041 Amery Regional Medical Center

Dear Ms. Dortch,

This Request for Review pertains to Funding Year 2011 Funding Commitment Adjustments related to six (6) USAC Rural Health Care funding requests for HCP 13041 Amery Regional Medical Center. The details for the funding requests can be found below:

HCP Name: Amery Regional Medical Center
HCP Number: 13041
Funding Year: 2011
Funding Request Numbers: 62296, 62297, 62298, 62299, 62300, and 63573.
Service Provider Identification Number: 143030766 (Norlight – 143001175)
Service Provider Name: Windstream (formerly Norlight)

Primary Contact: Bill Lehner
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The funding commitments were adjusted after USAC chose not to endorse a contract for services with Windstream (Norlight) that USAC states was signed during the FY 2011 28-day bidding period.

Amery Regional Medical Center (ARMC) appealed USAC's decision on May 17, 2013. USAC subsequently denied ARMC's request in a letter dated August 20, 2013.

Amery Regional Medical Center (ARMC) is requesting a review of USAC's decision as ARMC believes it went through a proper bidding process to secure best pricing and services, and to remain within the true spirit and intent of the USAC RHC program.

After Oct. 2010 when the first agreement expired ARMC went on month-to-month. It took 6 months to get the agreements signed, internally approved, and extend off the FY 2010 form 465. It was unfortunate and random that the final day to sign with Windstream to have an agreement begin 7/1/2011 happened on 4/18/2011 – between the subsequent period's (FY 2011) 465 open bid period of 4/14-5/11.

Included in this Request for Review are pricing proposals I received at ARMC prior to extending the agreement with Windstream. If further documentation is required, ARMC would be happy to provide it.

ARMC is asking that the original funding commitments to be upheld, and for any proposed adjustments that reduce the funding be rescinded. If this request for review is denied, the loss of funding will greatly impact the amount of care ARMC is able to provide to the residents of Amery, WI and the surrounding communities.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

William T. Lehner
Director of IT – Amery Regional Medical Center